



NEW JERSEY SICK/DEAD BIRD REPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Routine testing of birds for West Nile virus (WNV) is no longer conducted in New Jersey. Limited testing is available upon request by a Health Officer. To request avian WNV testing, the Health Officer should contact the Vector-borne Disease Program, Communicable Disease Service at 609-826-5694 or CDSVectorTeam@doh.nj.gov.

Local health departments and county mosquito control agencies receiving sick/dead bird reports, including wild waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors, should complete the New Jersey Sick/Dead Bird Report and e-mail it to CDSvectorteam@doh.nj.gov.

Reports of sick or dead domestic poultry, including gamebirds, backyard poultry and exhibition poultry should be immediately reported to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA). Please direct the caller to contact the NJDA, Division of Animal Health (DAH) at 609-671-6400.

Depending on the species of bird and cause of illness or death (obvious signs of trauma may warrant no action), the NJDA, or USDA/Wildlife Services may contact the caller for additional information and/or to arrange for testing.

Local health departments should provide guidance to the caller regarding bird disposal, if indicated. NJDA recommends the following:

1. Dispose of birds carefully (without causing feather dander or other materials to get into the air) by placing bird into a plastic garbage bag and seal. Wearing disposable impermeable gloves is recommended. You can also use a garden shovel or hand spade shovel. Place the first garbage bag into a second garbage bag.
2. If gloves are worn, remove gloves by turning them inside out and place them into the second garbage bag.
3. Tie or otherwise seal the second garbage bag and dispose of it in regular outdoor trash.
4. Avoid getting excrement or other secretions from birds on clothing or shoes; if clothing becomes contaminated, wash with hot water and detergent. Wash off and disinfect contaminated shoes before going indoors.
5. Clean all tools and surfaces in contact with birds immediately after use; use hot soapy water first, then disinfect (e.g. 10-percent household bleach solution – 1 part bleach to 10 parts water).
6. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and hot water after handling birds and contaminated equipment.